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Lloyd Stegemann

*Air Hitch Advisor*

AIR SAFE



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To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone.

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It is a scientific fact that your body will not absorb cholesterol if you take it from another person's plate.

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Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

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Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.

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All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.

**Funny Signs**



**Who Is Buying RV's Today?**

The following article sent in by Sally Haynes

There was a time when the word 'RV' was associated with older purchasers who, after a lifetime of work, finally retired and bought into an RV to see more of the country, and the world at large. However, research has shown that the RV industry is thriving ([US News – RV Sales Booming](#)) and the reason for this is that the market is getting younger with each passing year. According to the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA), the fastest-growing group of RV owners in 2013 belonged to the 35-44-year-old age group, which is just

slightly less than the industry's largest group of owners (aged 45 to 54). In the 1980s, the average RV owner was aged 50; these days, that number is closer to 48, with further drops expected over the next few years.

The change has been spurred on by RV manufacturers themselves, who realize that to attract younger buyers ([CNBC – RV Buyers Getting Younger](#)), specific features must be given importance. Fitness, for instance, is an important consideration for those in their 30s and 40s and RVs today contain features such as bicycle and kayak racks, which are majorly tempting for those who typically head out to lakeside and forest destinations, to hone their fitness while getting up close to Nature.

Modern RV parks have also woken up to the demand for better fitness offerings, by offering clients a wide array of fitness installations, gyms, etc. Some parks offer guided walking activities in nearby natural areas, while others make life easier for clients via rental bikes, kayaks, and more. Indeed, in recent years, the concept of the luxury RV Resort has made RV life more tempting than ever for singletons and families with young children alike. If you are travelling to Texas, for instance, check out SunRV Resorts, an example of how these days, there is little difference between a stay at an RV resort, and a good three- or four-star hotel. Top RV resorts have shuffleboard courts, outdoor pools, games rooms, tennis and pickleball courts, and more. Also lined up are a host of activities, including dancing, parties, activities for kids, etc. RVs are therefore an ideal choice for families with small kids who wish to have fun while their kids are entertained with a host of led activities and games.

RV Parks are also catering their services and facilities to different demographics. Again in Texas, for instance, the Fort Amarillo RV Resort is built to please the discerning spa goer, with an indoor heated pool, hot tub, fitness room, and a stream-fed fishing pond promising to take stress levels back to zero.

The RV purchaser these days is also someone who longs for the plentiful Health Benefits of Nature, which have been verified by many recent studies. Forest settings, it seems, will lower levels of harmful stress hormones, but also help everyone from those recovering from cancer, to children with ADHD. RVs, then, appeal to health-conscious purchasers who are beginning to forego traditional city sightseeing breaks in favor of relaxing breaks in the many natural paradises that pepper America. Current studies show that the average American child spends as little as 30 minutes in unstructured outdoor play, and over seven hours each day in front of an electrical device. An RV holiday is the ideal antidote for our over-reliance on technology.

Reduced costs are another reasons why RVs are becoming more attractive to buyers of all ages, across the globe. In the UK, RV sales are hitting record numbers, and a number of collateral markets have sprung up to cater to the burgeoning demand. Take the RV insurance sector – in the UK, Specific Insurance Coverage is catered to RVs of all types and sizes, covering any damage which may occur to the vehicle itself, as well as emergencies,

campsite and vacation coverage, etc. Moreover, RV manufacturers now offer a wide range of vehicles catering to all budget types, so that cost is a lesser issue than it was even a decade ago. Banks are also more willing to finance an RV purchase, so that even couples in their late 20s are buying into the RV trend.

The RV industry has enjoyed solid growth, with figures indicating that the industry has enjoyed an 11 percent gain year on year, and a 116 percent gain since its recession low, in 2009. Experience has shown that as the RV industries expands, the demand from younger buyers continues to grow, meaning that the nature of RV vehicles, resorts and associated services, will probably be changing over the next few years, in more ways than we can imagine.

## Worldwide RV Travel

### RV Owners Can Save On International Travel

RV / Motorhome owners can now enjoy low cost worldwide travel. How? They use the investment they have made in their RV to give them virtually free travel and accommodation in another country. This is now possible through being able to exchange RV's with like minded RV owners worldwide. We all know that the airfares are just a small part of the total cost of international travel. Air fares aside, if you exchange your RV there is no additional accommodation or travel costs to what you would normally incur using your RV at home.

It works much like a home exchange except it offers much more. It is not just your accommodation but also your transportation plus you get to experience a lot more of the country than you would stuck in one place. You also do not need to swap simultaneously as it's not your home. Who really wants to vacation in the U.K. in the winter? So with a RV exchange both parties can travel at the time of year that is best for them. This may actually be six months or more apart!

RV Worldwide is the place to arrange an RV exchange, and you can list your RV and requirements on their website for free. They also provide lots of helpful information to users to ensure that your exchange goes smoothly.

Visit the RV Worldwide website and see if there is a suitable RV available for you to exchange with or list your RV for free and who knows where you could end up. You can also use [www.rvworldwide.com](http://www.rvworldwide.com) to rent out your RV to top up your income or arrange to hire an RV for your next adventure. Have safe and exciting international travel through an 'RV Worldwide' exchange.

Written by Stephen Smith, director of RV Worldwide.

## Air Safe Hitches

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## RV Quick Facts

### ***What is a recreation vehicle (RV)?***

An RV is a vehicle that combines transportation and temporary living quarters for travel, recreation and camping.

Two main categories of RVs are *motorhomes* (motorized) and *towables* (towed behind the family car, van or pickup). Type A motorhomes are generally the largest; Type B motorhomes or van campers are the smallest and Type C motorhomes generally fall in between. Types of towable RVs are folding camping trailers, expandable trailers, truck campers, conventional travel trailers and fifth-wheel travel trailers. Sports utility RVs (also sometimes called "toy haulers"), which feature a built-in garage for hauling cycles, ATVs or sports equipment, are available in both motorhomes and towable RVs.

There's an RV for every taste and budget. Prices for new RVs are typically \$5,000-\$22,000 for folding camping trailers; \$6,000-\$55,000 for truck campers; \$8,000-\$95,000 for conventional travel trailers; \$43,000-\$200,000 for Type C motorhomes and \$60,000-\$500,000 for Type A motorhomes.

### ***What is the RV industry's economic impact?***

There are more than 12,000 RV-related businesses in the U.S. with combined annual revenues of more than \$37.5 billion. The RV industry employs more than a quarter million Americans. Effects of the recession caused significant RV-related job losses. Since June 2007, RV-related layoffs totaled approximately 280,000 — 55% of the industry's workforce. RV shipments began to improve in the last half of 2009 and RV manufacturers continue to

rehire workers to keep pace with demand. Shipments in 2013 were 12% higher than in 2012.

RVs are made by American companies employing American workers that are located in America. In fact, more than 60% of recreation vehicles are made in Elkhart County, Indiana.

### ***Who is the RV traveler?***

U.S. ownership of RVs has reached record levels, according to a 2011 University of Michigan study commissioned by Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA). Approximately 8.9 million households own an RV.

Today's typical RV owner is 48 years old, married, with an annual household income of \$62,000 — higher than the median for all households, according to the Michigan study. RV owners are likely to own their homes and spend disposable income on traveling — an average of three weeks annually, RVIA research shows.

A leading force behind RV ownership's upswing is the enormous baby boomer generation, supported by strong ownership gains among both younger and older buyers. In fact, high RV ownership rates now extend across a 40-year span from age 35-to-75, the Michigan study found.

More RVs are now owned by those ages 35-to-54 than any other group, according to the University of Michigan study.

More than 11 percent of U.S. households headed by 35-to-54 year olds own an RV, exceeding the 9.3 percent ownership rates of those 55 and over. The 35-to-54 age group posted the largest gains in the 2011 Michigan survey.

### ***Why do people choose and use RVs?***

**Flexibility and convenience** — RVs offer a convenient, hassle-free way to see America. RV travelers enjoy the freedom and flexibility to go where they want, when they want — without the worry and stress of inflexible schedules, advance reservations, airport waits and luggage restrictions.

**Comfort** — With fully-equipped kitchens and baths, rooms that slide out at the touch of a button, central air and heat, flat-screen TVs, surround-sound stereos and more, today's RVs provide travelers with all the amenities of home while on the road or at the campground.

**Family appeal** — RVing is a uniquely enjoyable way to travel as a family. In fact, families that frequently vacation by RV say it fosters an increased sense of togetherness and helps improve family communication. RV owners say that strengthening family relationships is important for their pleasure trips.

**Affordability** — RV vacations are more affordable than travel by personal car, commercial airline or cruise ship, according to vacation cost-comparison studies by PKF Consulting. Even factoring in RV ownership costs, and considering resulting tax benefits, a family of four can spend up to 59 percent less when traveling by RV.

**Lure of the outdoors** — RVers can enjoy the mountains, beaches, parks, popular tourist attractions and small towns whenever they want, without giving up the comforts of home. With sport utility RVs, RV travelers can easily haul their ATVs, snowmobiles, motorcycles or other outdoor vehicles right on board.

**Versatility** — In addition to travel, camping and outdoor recreation, RVs are used year-round for a variety of other purposes, like shopping, tailgating at sporting events, pursuing special interests like horse, dog and antique shows and other hobbies.

Rentals available — Renting an RV is a popular way to “try before you buy.” The RV rental business is a \$350 million industry, which is continuing to grow.

#### ***Where do RVers travel?***

With more than 16,000 public and privately owned campgrounds nationwide, RVers are free to roam America’s roads for a weekend — or months at a time.

Privately owned RV parks and campgrounds are found near popular destinations, along major tourist routes and even in metropolitan areas. These campgrounds appeal to travelers by offering a variety of activities to keep the whole family happy, including swimming pools, game rooms, playgrounds and snack bars.

RV travelers seeking a resort atmosphere are attracted to the growing number of luxury RV resorts with facilities such as tennis courts, golf courses and health spas.

Facilities at public campgrounds tend to be simple, but offer great scenic beauty. Public lands are popular for hiking, fishing, white water rafting and many other outdoor recreational opportunities enjoyed by RVers.

#### ***What does the future hold for the RV market?***

Changes in the frequency and duration of vacations favor the RV industry. Americans are traveling shorter distances and on weekends with less planning, according to recent studies. For RV owners, this is a convenient travel pattern.

RV demand remains robust and the potential for future sales is bright, according to a University of Michigan study. Among U.S. households that have never owned an RV, more than one in seven expressed interest in purchasing an RV in the future.

Both parents and empty-nesters are strong potential RV buyers, and promising future prospects are emerging among younger, ethnically diverse consumers, reveals a Harris

Interactive study commissioned by the Go RVing Coalition. Generation Xers exhibit interests in outdoor activities that are highly compatible with RVing, the study found.

Ownership and demographic trends favor substantial RV market growth, according to the University of Michigan. Baby boomers are entering an age range — 55 to 64 — with high RV ownership rates historically, according to the Michigan study.

RV manufacturers are innovating to give consumers an array of product choices. Manufacturers are producing lightweight towables and smaller, fuel-efficient motorhomes. Green technologies such as solar panels are appearing on an increasing number of RVs.

#### ***How can I learn more about RVs?***

**Surf the web** — Check out RVIA.org and GoRVing.com for information on RV travel trends, vehicles types, show listings and lists of RV dealers and campgrounds in your area.

**Visit an RV dealer** — Check GoRVing.com to find local dealerships.

**Attend an RV show** — A variety of RVs of all shapes, sizes and costs are displayed at dozens of RV shows around the nation. Show dates and locations are searchable at GoRVing.com.

**Rent an RV** — More than 460 RV rental outlets are located across the country. Renting allows potential buyers to try RV travel and determine which vehicle types best suits their needs. Check GoRVing.com for the nearest rental outlet.

## **How to Prepare for All Kinds of Camping Weather**

Camping trips aren't limited to the sunny days of summer anymore. With advancements in gear, clothing and weather forecasting, it's easier than ever to get outside in all kinds of weather. In fact, camping has become a year-round activity.

You can try to plan your trips around good camping weather, but you should always think like the Boy Scouts and be prepared for anything. Here's how.

#### **Anticipate Dramatic Changes**

The planet's climate is changing. Spring arrives earlier. Summers are hotter. Storms are more frequent and powerful. And winter is getting colder.

That's why it's important to anticipate the impact these dramatic changes can have on your next trip. It's also vital to keep a positive attitude towards whatever surprises nature brings your way. After all, you can't control the weather, but you can adapt to it.

### **Get Weather Forecasts**

Unusual or extreme weather can be unpleasant if you're not ready for it. Unlike a gentle summer shower, a powerful thunderstorm can take all the fun out of things. Same goes for starting out in calm 90-degree heat down in a valley and finding five feet of snow and driving winds at your 7,000-foot elevation campground.

To limit unexpected surprises, check camping weather forecasts online. These services are easy to use: Simply enter the zip code of your destination and you can get a weather forecast for that region for up to 15 days in advance. Some weather forecast sites can also text weather updates to your smartphone—you'll need a mobile signal, of course.

If your camping plans take you to wilderness areas where—heaven forbid—cell phone service is non-existent, weather radios are reliable backups. These range from simple battery-operated weather alert units and crank-type radios that require no batteries, to CB radios with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) channels for use with your motorhome or tow vehicle.

### **Inclement Camping Weather**

If it's not clear skies, a light breeze and 73 degrees with 50 percent humidity, then it must be inclement weather, right? Here's how to deal with all kinds of natural occurrences.

**Rain and Floods:** These are perhaps the most underestimated dangers to campers. A downpour 5 miles away may appear to have no effect on you where you are...until thousands of gallons of untamed water come rushing down that dry riverbed and catches you unprepared. Even if you're on the high ground, what about the dusty old road you drove in on? It could be days before help can reach you.

And don't even think about driving your rig across that “shallow” stream. It only takes 18 to 24 inches of water to float the average vehicle. And once you start bobbing, your steering wheel is useless. Trying to cross on foot is even more dangerous as moving water is incredibly powerful. It's best to stay on high ground until the water subsides.

**Winds:** Contrary to what you might expect, hiking or camping in a forest offers very little protection against high winds—especially at upper elevations where trees are likely to have shallow roots. These trees can blow over easily and fill the air with flying, debris and branches.

If high winds descend upon you, seek shelter in a heavy, solid structure, a large, stable rock formation or a cave. Out on flatlands without ground cover, blowing dirt and gravel pose a serious hazard, so find shelter.

**Lightning:** While lightning can be awesome to watch from a distance, you don't want to guess where it might hit. To minimize your risk:

**Don't be the tallest object around.** If you're in an open field get as low as you can, but don't lie flat on the ground. Instead, squat down on the balls of your feet. The idea is to be as small as possible and have as little contact with the ground as you can. If you're carrying a backpack get rid of it. It doesn't attract lightning, but dropping the extra weight means you can get to shelter faster.

**Don't be near the tallest object around, such as a solitary tree.** Lightning is attracted to the thing closest to it and seeking shelter at the base of a large tree is often what causes people to get struck.

**There are no reliable warning signs that lightning is about to strike.** Don't depend on your hair standing on end to clue you in. If your hair does stand up, take steps to protect yourself. Get inside your RV or motor vehicle if you can, or a solid wooden structure. Avoid tents and stay away from metal awnings that shelter picnic tables.

**There is no safe distance from a thunderstorm.** Lightning has been known to travel miles before striking the ground. If you can see it, you should take shelter.

**Follow the 30/30 rule.** If you see a flash and thunder reaches you in 30 seconds or less, get under shelter. And wait 30 minutes after the last lightning and thunder before resuming your activities.

**Tornadoes:** Twisters aren't limited to Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas; they've been reported in every state in the United States and can occur at any time, day or night. And just because they're rare in mountainous regions doesn't mean they can't happen.

If you happen upon a tornado while traveling to or from a campground, it may be possible to drive away from it if road conditions permit and you can reach 60+ miles per hour—while tornado winds can reach 200 mph or more, a twister rarely moves faster than 60 mph. If you can drive at a right angle to the direction the tornado is traveling, you're likely to avoid the danger by getting out of its way. Just be aware that it can change direction quickly.

If you can't get away, abandon your vehicle and seek the best shelter you can find. Most injuries and deaths are due to flying debris. So your best bet is to get low and out of the winds and find something to hang onto. You may think your 3-ton SUV is good protection, but a tornado can pick it up or roll it easily until it's a mashed up mess.

Finally, don't seek shelter under an overpass as it acts like a wind tunnel and can actually increase the wind speed.

### **Hot Camping Weather**

If you venture into hot zones, you should be prepared for the conditions. Living in an air-conditioned motorhome or trailer can make places with names like Furnace Gulch or Anvil Flats more bearable—as long as you have AC power. But you need to be prepared should

that power fail. If you're in a tent, forget it. Thin nylon walls offer absolutely no comfort from blistering heat. Here's how to prepare in other ways.

**Hot Weather Clothing:** Your body cools off in warm climates through sweating. So be sure your wardrobe includes light colored fabrics that reflect the sun's rays away and that can vent off perspiration. Polyester and nylon work well and dry quickly. And a hat (not a visor) is an absolute must to keep your noggin from overheating.

**Hot Weather Gear:** Leave your winter-rated sleeping bag at home and equip yourself with [lighter, cooler bedding](#) for a hot trip.

If you're tent camping, it will be hot and stuffy in the warm months. Remove the rain fly from the roof to help cool off, or sleep outdoors on a sleeping pad. Of course you might have to slather on the [DEET spray](#) to keep ravenous bugs at bay while you sleep.

Finally, use two ice coolers, one for drinks and one for food. The ice in the food chest will last longer than the drink chest, which will be opened more frequently by thirsty campers.

**Stay Hydrated:** As long as you sweat you're losing water, and as you learned in biology, the human body needs plenty of H<sub>2</sub>O to function properly. So make sure you have lots of fluids on hand. And, no, beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages don't count when it comes to hydration.

**Find Shade:** If you can, park your RV or pitch your tent in a shady area to keep out of the sun. If you can't find shade, create your own by tying a tarp between some trees. Also, be sure to apply plenty of waterproof sunscreen and lip balm that's at least SPF 30.

### **Cold Camping Weather**

In colder regions, or where sudden weather changes can cause temperatures to plunge, you have to prepare for big fluctuations. Many mountain campgrounds can still have snow on the ground in June.

**Cold Weather Clothing:** If you're not heading north of the Arctic Circle, you really just need the basics, which includes long sleeve shirts, long pants, a hooded sweatshirt, parka jacket, warm socks, gloves or mittens, and a beanie.

Avoid cotton materials as they trap and hold moisture close to the body, reducing any insulating value. Undergarments of polypropylene are ideal for wicking away dampness, while over garments should be made of wool. If you layer, it's easier to adjust your comfort level as temperatures change.

**Cold Weather Gear:** Instead of sweltering inside a super warm sleeping bag, add an extra blanket on top of your standard duty bag instead.

Be sure to shelter your food and water from cold temperatures, as well. Sleep with your water bottle inside your sleeping bag to avoid the disappointment of frozen water when all you want is a cup of hot coffee in the morning.

#### **Bottom Line**

Your best bet is to plan ahead for all kinds of camping weather. Find out what the conditions are where you're headed, and get updates frequently.

## **How Fifth Wheel Hitches Work**

BY SCOTT C. BENJAMIN

It's probably not a stretch to suggest that everyone is familiar with the standard semi trailer design. Not only do they tower over nearly every other vehicle on the highway, but they're often the longest vehicles on the road. Big rigs are capable of towing trailers that carry literally tons of cargo weight. But how do they do it?

Sure, semi trucks have gigantic diesel engines, and those have a lot to do with moving that much weight. But how can the vehicle support and hang onto that much trailer weight in the first place? A relatively puny ball hitch -- the type you'd find below the back bumper on any pickup truck, SUV or recreational vehicle -- would snap off under that much weight. So what's the secret?

There's no real secret, except that semi trucks don't use ball hitches. They rely on a heavy-duty trailer attachment system, one that closely resembles towing equipment you can add to your own heavy-duty pickup truck -- a fifth wheel trailer hitch. Fifth wheel hitches are designed for carrying much heavier loads than the typical ball hitch can handle. The front edge of the trailer extends over the rear bumper of the pickup truck. The attachment point is in the bed of the truck, not at the rear bumper. When properly installed, the weight of the trailer is actually pressing down between the cab of the pickup and the rear axle. This allows the truck to carry a significantly greater amount of weight -- a much larger trailer, in other words.

The fifth wheel hitch (the part that lives in the bed of the pickup truck) is a large, flat plate that has a shape similar to a horseshoe. The metal rails that run beneath the hitch attach to the frame of the pickup truck for strength. The trailer connects to the fifth wheel hitch via a downward-facing pin -- called a king pin -- along with a plate that rests on top of the fifth wheel hitch plate. The king pin locks into position so it is secure within the hitch but can pivot to accommodate turns.

The flat plate of the trailer and the flat plate of the fifth wheel hitch are in constant contact with one another. They slide against one another continuously when the trailer is in motion, so lubrication between these two components is critical.

As far as towing equipment pricing goes, fifth wheel hitches run the gamut. They seem to start around \$500 for an "economy" fifth wheel hitch and go beyond \$3,000 for a top-of-the-line [Air Hitch models](#) (starting at \$1,395). As a general rule of thumb, as the gross trailer weight rating of the hitch increases, so does the price. Of course, the high-end hitches also feature various design attributes that make them valuable to someone pulling a heavy trailer. Sliding hitches, better bearings and heavier attachment hardware are just a few examples of features that can drive the price of a hitch upward.

Let's just say that you've decided to install a fifth wheel hitch in the bed of your heavy-duty pickup truck. Will you need to have someone install it, or is it something that you can easily handle on your own?

### **Installing Fifth Wheel Hitches**

Prior to installing a fifth wheel hitch on your truck, regardless of whether you decide to do it yourself or have it installed by a professional, you must ensure your vehicle is rated to hold the extra weight of the trailer that you're planning to attach. It sounds rather elementary, yet this point is often overlooked. The owner's manual is a good place to start, and if you can't find the information there, make sure to contact the vehicle's manufacturer for a clear answer.

When the hitch is properly installed in the bed of the pickup, it will be positioned so that the weight of the trailer is between the cab of the truck and the rear axle. The installation instructions will give you the exact placement for what the manufacturer considers to be the optimum towing position.

However, you can't simply bolt a fifth wheel hitch to the bed of your truck, attach a trailer and hit the road -- the hitch has to be properly anchored to the frame of the truck first. After all, you're going to be supporting and pulling a lot of weight with a fifth wheel, so it had better be secure. You'll need to install a rail kit, too. The rail kit acts like a foundation for the hitch. The rails attach to brackets that attach to the frame of the truck.

If possible, you should attempt to purchase a complete fifth wheel hitch installation kit that was designed specifically for your vehicle. This will save you a lot of time and frustration, as these custom-fit kits require no drilling or welding. The kits contain all of the hardware you'll need for a basic installation, and the holes in the brackets line up with pre-existing holes in the vehicle's frame. If you buy a universal installation kit, you may find that you'll be required to either drill holes in the vehicle's frame or weld the brackets in place to properly mount the hitch.

Another point to consider during your installation is that the rails that support the fifth wheel hitch should never be installed over a plastic bed liner. Even though the rails will initially secure tightly, the plastic will ultimately disintegrate, leaving you with a loose hitch. If you have a pickup truck with a spray-in bed liner, you're in luck -- fifth wheel hitches can be installed in a bed that has a spray-in bed liner.

If you're able to purchase a custom-fit installation kit, the installation of a fifth wheel hitch requires little more than a good deal of measuring, followed by bolting the brackets and rails to the frame of your truck. With that said, many people opt to tackle this rather uncomplicated installation in their own garage or driveway. Of course, if you are unable to purchase an installation kit that was designed for your specific vehicle, or if you have any reservations about being able to complete this project on your own, you can hire a professional to do the job for you. As long as there are no complications, it won't take a certified mechanic very long to complete the installation of your latest piece of towing equipment. After all, if they're accustomed to installing towing hitches on other tow vehicles, installing a fifth wheel hitch in the bed of a pickup truck shouldn't be all that difficult.

## 8 Reasons to Go Camping in the Fall

By Jessica Sanders, ReserveAmerica.com

With the hot days of summer behind us, camping takes on a new life. Chilly mornings, perfect hiking weather and warm comfort food all come together to make fall camping a must-do for any outdoors enthusiast. If you're not convinced, here are seven very good reasons to keep your tent out just a little bit longer.

### **The Scenery**

In almost all areas of the country beautiful colors reign supreme during the fall season, which makes it a picturesque time to go camping. Though New England is known for its array of seasonal hues, there are a number of places to go for a charming autumn trip. Some of the best states for fall camping are:

- Colorado
- Washington
- New Mexico
- Michigan
- North Carolina

### **The Weather**

Through tired eyes you watch the sun crest in the east as you clutch your warm mug, steam rising into the fresh morning air. Coffee or hot chocolate never tasted so good as on a crisp

autumn morning. With the right clothes and gear, these temperatures make fall camping more comfortable than in the hot humidity of summer.

### **Affordable Rates**

After Labor Day many campgrounds drop their rates, stop taking reservations, and become first come first serve. With peak season behind you, now's the time to get the most affordable rates.

### **Less Bugs**

Chilly fall temperatures chase the usual overflow of bugs to a warmer climate. This makes forested campsites, which are often flooded with mosquitos and nagging insects, more comfortable. Still, you should always keep bug spray packed, just in case.

### **Fall Camping Food**

Cool weather makes comfort food a campsite staple. Warm up your evenings at camp with one of these cold-weather approved meals:

#### 2 Quick Cast Iron Meals

### **A Good Night's Sleep**

Sharing a small sleeping space in the summer months can make your hot tent even more unbearable. However, sleeping is more comfortable on cool fall nights. Snuggle up with your little ones or significant other for a long, restful sleep under the stars.

### **Different Activities**

The fall season is prime time for an array of different camp activities. AccessCamping.com reports, "Autumn used to be a quiet, slow period in the country's parks, but things have changed, notes Paul Bambei, president and CEO of ARVC. He says that although fewer campers are traveling, park operators have discovered they can sometimes fill their campsites and cabins to capacity if they provide enough activities." When you go camping in the fall, try:

Apple picking

Pumpkin picking and carving

Local harvest festivals like Oktoberfest

Halloween events

Fall fishing derbies

### **Fewer Crowds**

Meeting new people is a great benefit of camping. Still, busy campgrounds can be overwhelming. With less people inclined to camp during the school year, you can enjoy having fewer neighbors and less crowded hiking trails.

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